

TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given of a Public Hearing to be held by the Reapportionment Commission on Wednesday, July 18, 2012, at 7:00 P.M. in Thornton Wilder Hall, at the Miller Library Complex, 2901 Dixwell Avenue, for the following purpose: **To receive public input on the Reapportionment Commissions plan of the new proposed Town district lines**


Kim Renta, Clerk

July 13, 2012

Summary of Hamden Reapportionment Commission

Reapportionment Study June 26, 2012 - Need for Reapportionment and Composition of Reapportionment Commission

Chapter 146 of the Connecticut General Statutes contains the requirements for reapportionment of municipal legislative bodies. Specifically, Section 9-169 states that municipal legislature bodies must not be later than June 1 of the year after the first regular General Assembly election following a reapportionment of the General Assembly adopt a reapportionment plan for such legislative body. The reapportionment plan shall be based on population data for the municipality from the most recent decennial census of the United States. In this case, the population data used are from the 2010 census. In addition, Section 3-7(D)(1) of Hamden's Town Charter states that the responsibility for drawing the new district lines is assigned to a Commission, which should include seven members, two of whom shall be the Registrars of Voters, and "five (5) Electors recommended by the President of the Legislative Council and approved by the Council, no more than two (2) of whom shall be from the same political party." Section 3-7(D)(5) states that the Commission "shall recommend and set forth the boundaries of each of the proposed voting districts and, upon recommendation of the Registrars of Voters, include an enumeration of suitable polling places within each district." Throughout this report, the word "District" shall mean Hamden Legislative Council District.

Process Used By the Commission In order to achieve a reapportionment plan which meets the requirements of the state statutes, the Hamden Charter, and local approval, a rigorous analysis and discussion process was followed. The steps in this process included

- The 2010 census population counts were calculated and mapped in accordance with the current nine Districts. The "ideal" population for each District was calculated at 6,773 by dividing the total population by nine. This process identified those Districts which did not meet the criteria of five percent variation from the ideal population.
- Map 1 displays the current Districts with the 2010 population for each District and total town population. This map also displays the average or "ideal population" and the variance from this ideal population for each District. This provided the first mapping/analysis tool for the Commission to understand which Districts were out of balance.
- The map was then supplemented by adding the boundaries of the State Senate and Assembly Districts recently established by the State Legislators. The location of current polling locations and place of residence of incumbent Legislative Council members were also placed on the map.
- The database was expanded to include the number of persons 18 years of age or older as well as registered voters on a Census Block Group basis. The Census Block Group is the geography used for all analysis and proposed reapportionment. The shapes of these Block Groups are irregular which results in irregularly shaped voting districts.
- The Commission established criteria to be used in the reapportionment process. These criteria are discussed later in

this report. • The Commission then went through a process of creating and testing various reapportionment scenarios to achieve a proposed reapportionment plan. During the process there were five different scenarios prepared and discussed. • At the conclusion of the process, Scenarios 4 and 5 were agreed upon as alternative proposals to bring to public hearing. These alternative scenarios are displayed on Maps 2 and 3. • In order to complete the analysis and discussion to bring the reapportionment plans to public hearing, the Commission held ten meetings. All of these meetings were posted in accordance with Town of Hamden requirements and open to the public.

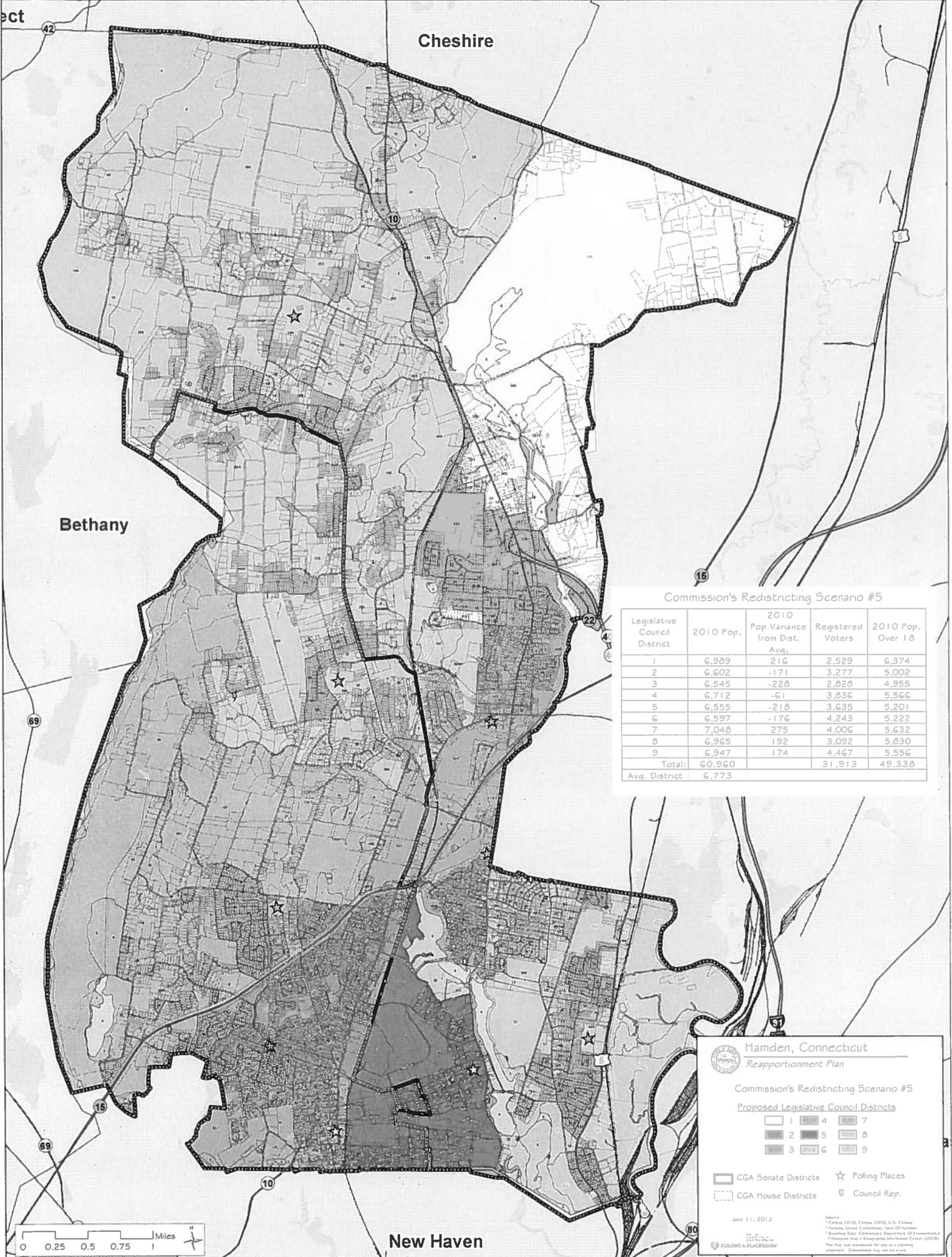
Criteria Used as a Basis for Reapportionment The Reapportionment Commission used the following criteria as a basis for reapportionment: • The purpose behind the requirement for reapportionment is to comply with the concept of political equality, or one person, one vote. The courts have interpreted this to mean that where single-member districts are used, as is the case in Hamden's nine Council Districts, such Districts should be nearly equal in population as practicable. Although there is no state or local legislative definition as to what is considered "nearly equal," the courts have generally established a plus/minus five percent standard as the range of the population. This range is based on a comparison with the "ideal" District population. In Hamden, this "ideal" District population is 6,773, which results from dividing the Town's total population (60,960) by nine Districts. Besides the statutory criteria which state that any redistricting plan (1) shall be based on population data for the municipality from the most recent decennial census of the United States and (2) may provide for geographic divisions which use the same borders as General Assembly districts in the municipality, when the Hamden Redistricting Commission was established, it determined that it would apply the consistency with General Assembly districts as well as three other criteria: • **General Assembly Districts** When drawing the Town District lines, the Commission considered the recently-drawn General Assembly district lines, to allow voters to use the same polling place for state and local elections as a priority criterion. A common complaint about the current Districts is that too many voters must move from one polling place to another every year. • **Neighborhoods** Hamden is a town of neighborhoods. In some cases, the current district lines divide those neighborhoods into two or more districts. Where appropriate, the Commission tried to keep a neighborhood in a single District in the proposed Districts. • **Incumbents** The Commission assumed that each of the nine incumbent council members intends to continue in office. Therefore, the retention of an incumbent in their current District was included in the criteria. Ten years ago, the Commission also used this criteria as one of its bases for drawing new lines. • **Polling Places** The polling places for some Districts currently lie outside the Districts themselves (the First District, for example). While it is not always possible to locate a polling place within a District, voters find it annoying and confusing to live near one polling place yet have to travel to another to vote. In addition, driving patterns need to be considered; i.e., a polling place needs to be accessible to the voters in the District.

Unique Population Conditions Impacting Reapportionment The 2010 census populations used for reapportionment are census block data, which is the smallest geographic area available. The boundaries of a census block are determined by the U.S. Census Bureau. As discussed earlier, the shapes of these census blocks are irregular resulting in irregularly shaped Districts. The distribution of the Hamden population on a census block basis results in several "super blocks" with large concentrations of people. These include the Southern Connecticut State University, Mix Avenue, Town Walk, and Quinnipiac University areas. In addition, in less developed parts of the Town, geographically large block groups result. The blocks cannot be subdivided for reapportionment purposes. This results in the reliance on the movement of blocks with smaller populations to achieve the target population in each District.

Use of Geographic Information System Technology Geographic Information System (GIS) technology has been used for both mapping and analysis. This technology permits the creation of a wide range of scenarios by capturing and reconfiguring block area populations into defined

District areas. This allowed the Commission and its consultants to test various alternative scenarios, and with each scenario, the Commission was able to see the implications for all nine Districts when a neighborhood was moved from one District to another. **Mapping and Analysis** Utilizing the GIS technology described above, a series of maps containing relevant data was produced for the Commission's review and discussion. Several of these maps are attached hereto including: **Proposed Reapportioned Districts** After a multitude of scenarios were prepared, reviewed, and discussed with reference to the criteria discussed above, several reapportionment District maps were produced. These maps, similar to Map 1 displaying the current Districts, displayed the population of each District and the variance from the ideal population. Scenario 4 was determined to be appropriate for more detailed review and discussion to determine the proposed reapportionment plan. As a result of this discussion, Scenario 5 was prepared. Map 2 displays Scenario 4 and Map 3 displays Scenario 5. Both Districts are within the five percent variance previously discussed. These maps also display the General Assembly district boundaries, polling places, and place of residence of current council members. **Population over 18 and Registered Voters** In addition to identifying the population in each proposed District, the number of registered voters and population over 18 was identified and shown on Maps 2 and 3. An average number for each category was calculated by dividing the town total in each category by 9. For registered voters the average is 3546 persons and for age 18 or over the average is 5482 persons per District. Not surprisingly in both scenarios the two lowest registered voter populations are in proposed Districts 1 and 3. District 1 contains the bulk of the Quinnipiac student population and District 3 contains the bulk of the SCSU student population. In terms of population 18 or over, District 1 has the highest population at 6374 again attributable to the Quinnipiac student population while District 3 has an 18 or older population of 4955 which is the lowest. This reflects a younger general population in District 3 which off-sets the SCSU population. **Split Districts** Maps 4 and 5 display where the District is included in two State Senate or House Districts in both Scenarios 4 and 5. It is anticipated that some voters in these split Districts will go to the same polling place for both local and state elections. Within the polling place itself, there will be ballots specific to the state district within which the voter resides. In other cases, a voter will go to different polling places for state and local elections. For state election purposes, the Town will be divided into ten voting districts. Map 6 displays these voting districts. **Proposed Reapportionment Plans** Based upon an analysis to the extent that a scenario meets the criteria discussed earlier, Scenarios 4 and 5 are proposed for consideration. Scenario 4 addresses the criteria of conformance with State Senate and Assembly Districts to a greater extent than Scenario 5. However, even under that scenario, 100% conformance cannot be achieved. While Scenario 5 is in greater non-conformance with the State Districts, it better addresses the other criteria of maintaining neighborhoods in one District and retains all incumbent Legislative Council members in their current district. **Consistency with Established Criteria** This proposed reapportionment plans are consistent with the criteria established by the Reapportionment Commission as follows. **Equal Population Distribution among Districts** Based on 2010 Census data, a population per District with a variation of no more than 5% higher or lower than the 6773 ideal population has been established for all Districts in both Scenarios 4 and 5. **General Assembly Districts** The proposed reapportionment plans result in varying degrees of conformance with General Assembly Districts. Scenario 4 is in conformance to the greatest extent, but neither scenario is in 100% conformance. **Neighborhoods in Single District** Scenario 4 proposes more splits of neighborhoods than the current Districts. Scenario 5 changes from the current Districts do not result in any split of neighborhoods beyond the extent of the current Districts. **Incumbents** In Scenario 4, three Legislative Council incumbents are located in a new District and two Districts would have no incumbent. All Legislative Council incumbents remain in their current District in Scenario 5. **Proximity and Access to the Established Polling**

Places The proposed Districts will not impact the polling locations beyond the existing situation. **State Voting Districts** In order to provide for a somewhat equal number of voters at each polling site for state elections, State Voting Districts. Unlike the Legislative Council Districts which number nine, there are ten State Voting Districts. Map 6 displays these proposed districts.



Commission's Redistricting Scenario #5

Legislative Council District	2010 Pop.	2010 Pop. Variance from Dist. Avg.	Registered Voters	2010 Pop. Over 18
1	6,989	216	2,529	6,374
2	6,602	-171	3,277	5,002
3	6,545	-220	2,828	4,955
4	6,712	-61	3,336	5,566
5	6,555	-218	3,635	5,201
6	6,597	-176	4,243	5,222
7	7,048	275	4,006	5,632
8	6,965	192	3,092	5,830
9	6,947	174	4,467	5,556
Total:	60,960		31,913	49,338
Avg. District	6,773			

Hamden, Connecticut
 Reapportionment Plan

Commission's Redistricting Scenario #5

Proposed Legislative Council Districts

1	4	7
2	5	8
3	6	9

CGA Senate Districts
 Polling Places
 CGA House Districts
 Council Rep.

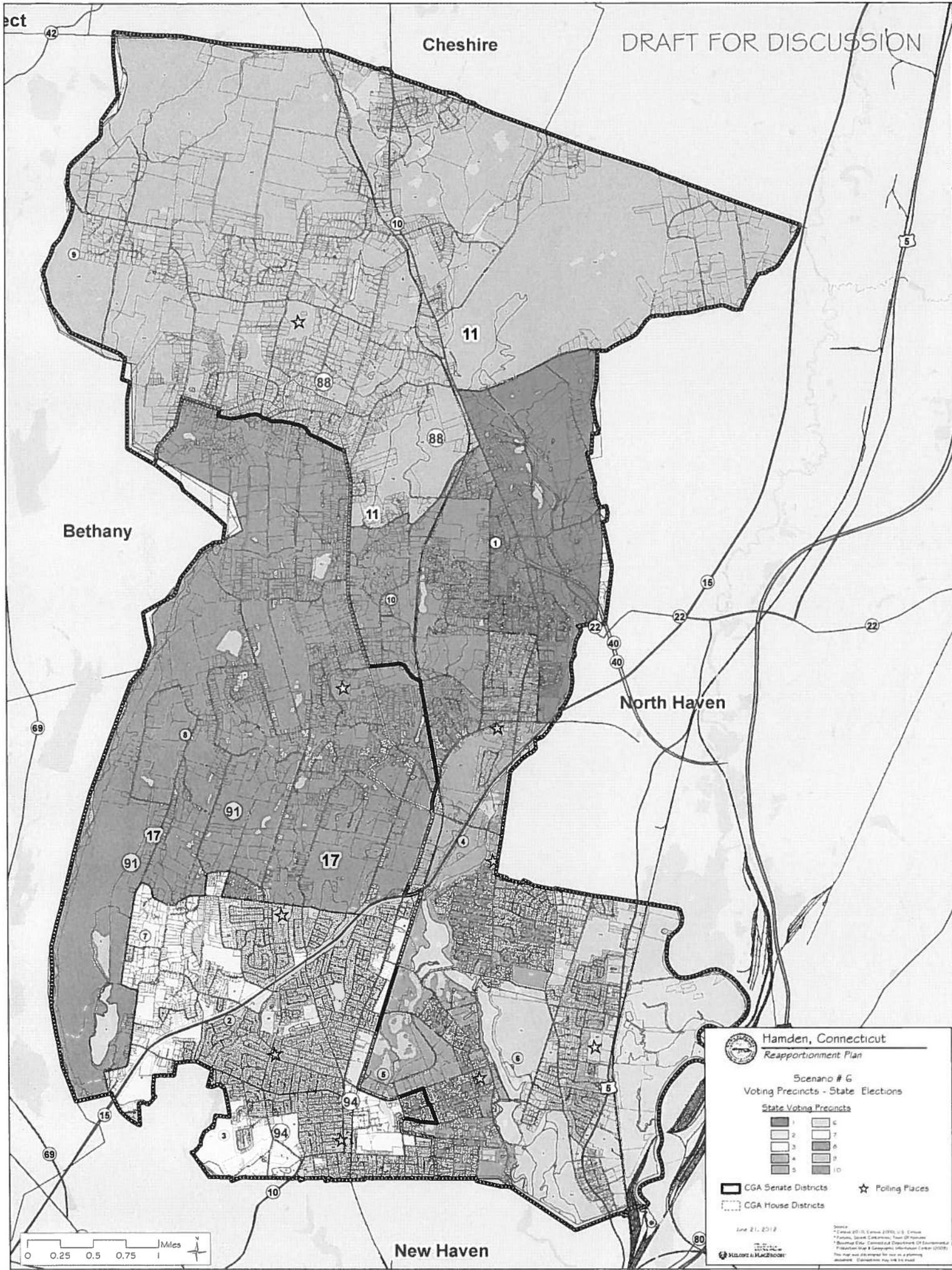
June 11, 2012

Source:
 * Census 2010, Census 2000, U.S. Census
 ** Voting, Census, Enrollment, Turn Out/Nonturn
 *** Boundary Data: Connecticut Department of Environment & Public Services
 **** Precinct Map © Geographic Information Center (GIS)

This map was developed for use as a planning instrument. Districts may not be used.

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New Haven



Hamden, Connecticut
 Reapportionment Plan

Scenario # 6
 Voting Precincts - State Elections

State Voting Precincts



- CGA Senate Districts
- CGA House Districts
- Polling Places

June 21, 2018

Source:
 * Census 2010 US Census Bureau
 * Precinct, State, Congressional, Tract, ZIP boundaries
 * Boundary Files: Connecticut Department of Transportation
 * Precinct Maps & Geographic Information System (GIS)
 This map was developed for use as a planning document. It does not constitute a final plan.

